
Bosses of America's three biggest car companies face grilling in Congress over their request for a multi-billion dollar bailout. Yesterday they faced scepticism from US lawmakers as to whether the bailout would work. Jamie Coomarasamy reports:

It was a long and frustrating day for the chief executives whose **revised** request for a multi-billion dollar loan was met with **renewed scepticism** by senators. Despite warnings of the **impending collapse** of General Motors and the view of the banking committee's chairman, Chris Dodd, that **inaction** was not **an option**, the six hour hearing ended **without consensus**.

Some Senators **echoed the sentiments of** President Bush who warned in an interview against throwing good money after bad.

On Friday the carmakers take their **case** to the House financial services committee. Its Democratic chairman, Barney Frank, has **called on** president-elect Obama to be rather more **assertive** on the issue than he has been so far.

Jamie Coomarasamy, BBC News, Washington

Vocabulary and definitions

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|---------------------------------|---|
| revised | that has been looked at again and, as a result, changed |
| renewed scepticism | more doubts (about the truth or value of something) |
| impending collapse | a serious failure that is about to happen |
| inaction | doing nothing |
| an option | here, something to consider, a possible choice |
| without consensus | with those present unable to come to a single opinion |
| echoed the sentiments of | expressed the same feelings as |
| case | an issue that is dealt with by a court of law |
| called on | firmly asked, encouraged |
| assertive | open, strong and confident |

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7766354.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/12/081205_us_cars.shtml